

## Hurricane Barry Strikes Louisiana



"I want to personally thank everyone from the local, state and federal levels who worked around the clock to prepare for Barry. Our first responders worked diligently to protect Louisiana, and we can't ever thank them enough for their service and commitment."

- Governor John Bel Edwards



## From The Director



I want to thank each and every one of you that played a role in the state's preparation, response and ongoing recovery efforts related to Hurricane Barry. It was our first major test of the season. While we will certainly find areas to improve, as we do with each event, the overall grade from Governor Edwards, his staff and our partners at each level of government was exceptional. Several conversations during the heat of battle indicated how well GOHSEP performed and how more states should strive to have a system like the one we have built here.

We often talk about how each tropical threat is different, and that's definitely the case with Barry. The storm started in Missouri, drifted to Georgia, entered the northeast Gulf of Mexico, strengthened and made landfall in Louisiana before ultimately circling back to Arkansas and Missouri. The impacts were much less severe than anticipated in some parts of the state. Other areas in southwest and central Louisiana eventually saw torrential rains several days after the initial threat. GOHSEP will continue with the process of securing an amended Federal Declaration in hopes of providing further disaster assistance.

GOHSEP, in concert with the Governor's Office, the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana State Police has begun school safety activities to assist school districts and local law enforcement entities with school safety preparedness. Here at GOHSEP, we have added a position within our Homeland Security and Interoperability Division that is dedicated to conducting outreach and assisting local school administration officials with preparing for all threats. Some of the upcoming initiatives that GOHSEP is partnering with other agencies include the rollout of an anonymous tip line staffed by Crime Stoppers, and an alert application by RAVE Mobile. Our agency has also partnered with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement to implement best practices for prevention and response to school threats and is coordinating with the Sheriff's Association and Chief's of Police Association to issue grant funded safety equipment to local school resource officers. The upcoming school year holds much promise and many opportunities to improve the school safety posture here in Louisiana, and GOHSEP is dedicated to supporting local school districts and law enforcement agencies in their efforts to keep our schools safe.

Thank you for all you do to help the people of Louisiana,

- James Waskom

## Concordia OHSEP Director, Guy Murray Passes

Article Courtesy of the [Concordia Sentinel](#).



July 24, 2019 - Guy Murray, a lifelong resident of Vidalia who was employed as a project manager and active in civic work, died Monday of a heart attack.

He also served as Concordia Parish Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and over the years became one of the most learned observers of flooding on the Mississippi River.

Murray was 40-years-old.

This past spring, Murray announced his first campaign for public office as a candidate for the District 21 House seat being vacated by Rep. Andy Anders. It was Murray's first venture into politics but a course he had been considering for a number of years.

He was employed for more than 15 years as project manager at the civil engineering firm of Bryant Hammett & Associates in Ferriday.

The Concordia Parish Police Jury named Murray to the post of OHSEP Director in 2017 based on his expertise in state and federal policies and procedures. Upon the appointment, Jury President Jimmy Wilkinson said Murray was a "great asset" to the parish.

Every week for the past six months, Murray updated Concordia residents on the Mississippi River during an historic high water period. The Mississippi has been above flood stage for 200 days, a record.

During the historic 2011 Mississippi River flood, the Mississippi reached a record level of almost 62 feet. Murray served as project manager for the emergency flood protection for levees, the Vidalia Riverfront area and the town's groundwater supply.

He served three years on the Concordia Parish Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, and in 2014 was voted "Male Concordian of the Year."

Murray was the son of Scoop Murray and Zelma Murray of Vidalia, and the grandson of former Vidalia Mayor Sidney A. Murray. The hydroelectric electric plant on the Mississippi in lower Concordia is named after Sidney Murray. Guy Murray said he was inspired by his grandfather's interest in the river and service to the public.

"I come from a family of public servants," he said in his announcement for state representative this spring, "and they have instilled in me the value of hard work and public service."

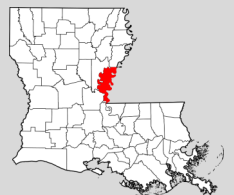
Murray attended Vidalia High School, LSU and Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

His wife Kally and three children, Jada, Hayden and Logann, survive him.

Murray attended the First Baptist Church of Vidalia

### Concordia Parish OHSEP Interim Director

Parish Police Jury President Jimmie Wilkinson will serve as OHSEP Director until a successor can be appointed. Jimmie may be contacted at (318) 336-7151, or by email at [oepp@conppj.org](mailto:oepp@conppj.org).





## Storm Names for the 2019 Hurricane Season

Atlantic storm name lists are maintained by a committee of the World Meteorological Organization and repeat every six years, unless a hurricane or storm is so destructive and/or deadly that the committee votes to retire use of the name.

2019 STORM NAMES			ATLANTIC
✓ Andrea	Humberto	Olga	
✓ Barry	Imelda	Pablo	
Chantal	Jerry	Rebekah	
Dorian	Karen	Sebastien	
Erin	Lorenzo	Tanya	
Fernand	Melissa	Van	
Gabrielle	Nestor	Wendy	

✓ Storm activity to date.

## The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available

Check out the latest episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast!

On this episode, we will speak with members of a volunteer group who organized to help their community after a devastating flood. They stayed together to help during the recovery process and continue to help in new ways today. Find out how the lessons learned by the West Feliciana Volunteers for Response and Recovery Foundation could help others trying to establish this type of network.

River flooding continues to be an issue in Louisiana and other parts of the country. Heath Jones with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-New Orleans District joins us for a discussion on the rivers, the ongoing

ing flood fight and the guidelines for operating structures like the Bonnet Carre Spillway.



Find a link at [GetAGamePlan.org](https://GetAGamePlan.org) or download and subscribe to the podcast from Spotify or any other major podcast store. or many other podcast stores.

## GOHSEP Audio/Video System And Facility Upgrades

GOHSEP recently implemented a number of audio/video (A/V) and related facility improvements at our Independence location. This project provided an opportunity to replace the aging and obsolete analog based A/V control equipment, wiring and visual display equipment for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and many of the secondary operational areas that support the mission flow during an activation or event. Some of the most noticeable changes include replacement of the projectors and screens in the EOC and Overwatch with a video wall system which will provide improved display clarity, additional image manipulation capability and more functionality. The new infrastructure will also provide a pathway for future upgrade needs, enhanced system capabilities for dissemination of operational information to secondary rooms, and additional conferencing potential should also be noted.

Along with the many technology improvements, several rooms have been re tasked and improved to provide not only enhanced activation capabilities but also additional meeting and training space for daily non activation related activities. One of these rooms is the Media Room, which is where press conferences and media interviews normally take place during an event, exercise or general activation. The room has been reoriented, with a low rise stage added, improved background graphics and lighting, a door that opens directly from the Overwatch to provide convenience and security for the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries during a press event, and a foldup meeting table that can be repurposed or easily removed when necessary. The old projector has been removed and a large TV screen added to better facilitate meetings. Another notable facility change includes Conference Room 2, where the old partitions have been removed and a large conference table has been added along with a large screen monitor for meetings and presentations.

These and other related A/V and facility improvements are part of our continuing efforts to enhance our overall operational readiness and response capabilities, and to better serve our partners and the people of Louisiana in their time of need.

For questions related to the new A/V system or this article, contact: Steven Burr [steve.burr@la.gov](mailto:steve.burr@la.gov)





## Parish Profile - St. Charles

### Parish Taking A New Approach To Hurricane Preparedness

*#BePrepared campaign to include children's activity book and summer camp field trips.*

This year, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, along with the Public Information Office, is taking a new approach to hurricane preparedness by focusing campaign efforts on educating youth.

"It has been 11 years since the last major hurricane made landfall here in the U.S. (Hurricane Wilma)," said Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director Joe Ganote. "It is our goal each and every year to combat any complacency that may have set in with our residents."

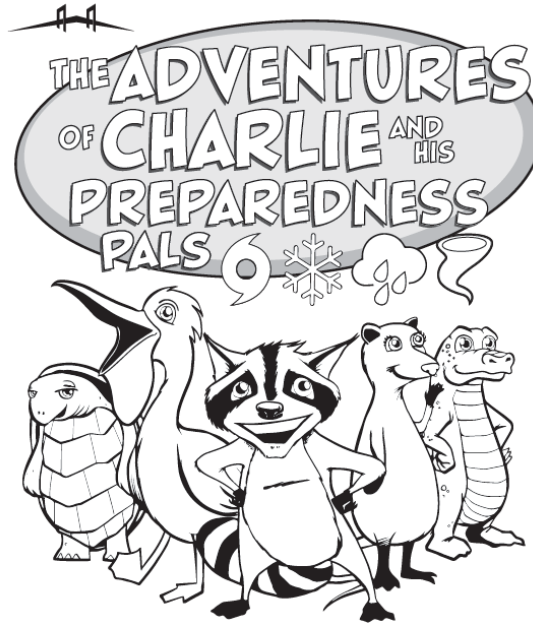
The #BePrepared campaign inspired the creation of an activity book called *The Adventures of Charlie and his Preparedness Pals*. The book follows Charlie and his fellow animal friends as they help children understand the importance of being prepared for any weather emergency.

The activity book includes educational activities and learning resources to help children be prepared during any weather event.

"Joe is very passionate about breaking the cycle of complacency in our parish, and he challenged us to help find a way to change the mindset of how our youth view preparedness. Our office felt the best approach was to start creating generations that understand preparedness has to be a way of life for us," said Interim Public Information Officer, Adrienne Bourgeois. "The book is completely original. As an office, we created the narrative and design while Emergency Coordinator, Steve Sirmon, drew the artwork. It was a challenge, but it was fun."

The parish will launch the activity book on June 17 when the Community Services Department's summer enrichment program goes on field trips to the Emergency Operations Center where they will listen to a presentation about preparedness from Ganote and Bourgeois. Then, the children will participate in a hands-on game that teaches them how to pack a preparedness kit. After the game, the children will tour the facility and leave with their own copy of the first-ever activity book.

"I couldn't be prouder of this campaign. As a former fire chief, I am no stranger to educating the youth on being prepared," said St. Charles Parish President Larry Cochran. "When the idea was pitched, they had my full support."



The book's printing cost was sponsored by the Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex whose partnership is expected to increase as the campaign evolves.

"Shell is proud to partner with the parish's #BePrepared campaign to educate children on the importance of preparedness at an early age," said Rochelle Touchard, Shell's External Relations Manager. "This fun, learning tool will show them how they can play a role in ensuring the safety of their families in the event of an approaching storm."

Additionally, the United Way of St. Charles donated plastic drawstring bags and crayons while sponsoring the printing cost of the newly designed #BePrepared Guide which will also be handed out throughout the community.

In addition, the Public Information Office will post social media posts geared specifically toward parish residents as well as participate in the emergency preparedness informational session sponsored by the Retired and Senior

Volunteer Program set for June 25 from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Edward A. Dufresne Community Center in Luling.

Throughout hurricane season, the Public Information Office will also air emergency preparedness videos on SCP-TV. An updated version of the Be Prepared Guide can be found on the website.

All hurricane information and tips on social media will be shared using the hashtag #BePrepared.

The mission of St. Charles Parish government is to provide high quality, efficient services to sustain and enhance the quality of life for all residents of St. Charles Parish.

For information on parish activities, visit [www.stcharlesparish-la.gov](http://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov), [www.facebook.com/stcharlesgov](https://www.facebook.com/stcharlesgov) or [www.twitter.com/stcharlesgov](https://www.twitter.com/stcharlesgov).

<b>Founded:</b>	1807
<b>Named For:</b>	Saint Charles
<b>Largest City:</b>	Luling
<b>Total Area:</b>	411 square miles
<b>Population (2015):</b>	52,812



OHSEP Director  
Joe Ganote  
(985) 783-5050

[www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/departments/emergency-preparedness](http://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/departments/emergency-preparedness)

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - [tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov](mailto:tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov)

<b>Vanetta Tasker</b> (Public Assistance Closeout)	07/01
<b>Honey Morris</b> (Grants & Administration)	07/03
<b>Roy Collins</b> (Public Assistance Closeout)	07/03
<b>Michael Zaruba</b> (Preparedness)	07/06
<b>Aviance Washington</b> (State Management Cost)	07/08
<b>Jeanne Savoy</b> (Public Assistance SALs)	07/08
<b>Ashley Shuffield</b> (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	07/08
<b>Cher Moore</b> (Public Assistance SALs)	07/08
<b>Detra Celestine</b> (Public Assistance Grants)	07/09
<b>Kimberly Poorbaugh</b> (Preparedness)	07/11
<b>Quwanda Brown</b> (Recovery Grants Administration)	07/12

<b>Glenda Bocking</b> (Public Assistance SALs)	07/12
<b>Tameka Hardy</b> (Public Assistance Program Oversight)	07/16
<b>Desmond Rideau</b> (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	07/17
<b>Charburn Richardson</b> (Public Assistance SALs)	07/17
<b>Brittany Calahan</b> (Recovery Grants Administration)	07/22
<b>Tiffany Thomas</b> (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	07/22
<b>Nikita Cole</b> (Recovery Grants Administration)	07/25
<b>Christopher Jarrell</b> (Public Assistance Grants)	07/26
<b>Deanna Burton</b> (Public Assistance Closeout)	07/28
<b>LaDonna Williams</b> (Public Assistance Closeout)	07/28

## UPCOMING EVENTS

To sign up or for more information about the training, visit: [gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule](http://gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule)

## TRAINING

Aug 6-8, 2019	Wide Area Search - Amite, Louisiana
Aug 12, 2019	Region 1 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - New Orleans, Louisiana
Aug 13, 2019	Region 2 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Aug 14, 2019	Region 9 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Covington, Louisiana
Aug 15, 2019	Region 4 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Lafayette, Louisiana
Aug 16, 2019	Region 5 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Lake Charles, Louisiana
Aug 19, 2019	Region 3 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Gray, Louisiana
Aug 19, 2019	PER 294 Testing an Emergency Operations Plan in a Rural Emergency Operations Center - Eunice, Louisiana
Aug 20, 2019	Region 7 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Shreveport, Louisiana
Aug 21, 2019	Region 8 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Ruston, Louisiana
Aug 21-22, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS & ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Madisonville, Louisiana
Aug 22, 2019	Region 6 Private Non-Profit and Houses of Worship Outreach Workshop - Pineville, Louisiana
Aug 23, 2019	PER 374 Active Threats on Campuses: Protective Measures and Response - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Aug 28, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Madisonville, Louisiana
Oct 14-18, 2019	Communications Unit Technician (COMT) - Gonzales, Louisiana
Oct 23-24, 2019	MGT 345 Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems - New Orleans, Louisiana
Oct 28-30, 2019	PER 340 Active Threat Integrated Response Course - Kenner, Louisiana
Oct 31-Nov 1, 2019	PER-335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks - Kenner, Louisiana
Nov 4-5, 2019	Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts - Scott, Louisiana
Nov 4-6, 2019	PER-340 Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC) - Kenner, Louisiana
Nov 5-7, 2019	PER 229 Intro to Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) - Lake Charles, Louisiana
Nov 13-14, 2019	MGT 317 Disaster Management for Public Services - New Orleans, Louisiana
Dec 3-4, 2019	MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Monroe, Louisiana
Dec 4-5, 2019	MGT 341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations - New Orleans, Louisiana

## NEW AGENCY HIRES

**Carmen Smith**  
Operations Officer (Operations)

**Brian Crawford**  
Homeland Security Officer (Homeland Security)

## UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

**Labor Day** - September 2, 2019

## Request For Articles

If you would like to include an article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact: Your designated Agency Representative or

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[mike.steele@la.gov](mailto:mike.steele@la.gov)

Steven Burr  
(225) 925-7423  
[steve.burr@la.gov](mailto:steve.burr@la.gov)



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